



# State of Tennessee

## PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 614

SENATE BILL NO. 1665

By Dickerson, Gresham, Yarbro

Substituted for: House Bill No. 1684

By Smith, Ragan, Daniel, Moody, Hardaway, Terry, Towns

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 11; Title 49, Chapter 7; Title 49, Chapter 8 and Title 49, Chapter 9, relative to higher education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7, is amended by adding the following language as a new part:

**49-7-1601.**

This part shall be known and may be cited as the "Tuition Transparency and Accountability Act."

**49-7-1602.**

As used in this part:

(1) "Board" means the trustees of the University of Tennessee or a state university board, as applicable;

(2) "Cost of attendance" means the combined cost of tuition, mandatory fees, room and board, books, and other educational expenses as determined by the financial aid office of the postsecondary institution;

(3) "Predictive cost estimate" means a non-binding estimated cost of attending an undergraduate program at the postsecondary institution based on a student's chosen field of study over a four-year period. A predictive cost estimate may include, but is not limited to, potential tuition and mandatory fee increases, projected increases in tuition based on a student's chosen field of study, and historical trend data; and

(4) "Tuition and mandatory fees" means the charges imposed to attend the relevant institution of higher education as an in-state undergraduate student and all fees required as a condition of enrollment as determined by the board. "Tuition and mandatory fees" does not include fees charged to out-of-state students by institutions of higher education, room and board, or other non-mandatory fees and charges.

**49-7-1603.**

(a) At least fifteen (15) days prior to holding a meeting to adopt an increase in tuition and mandatory fees, a board shall give public notice of the proposed tuition and mandatory fee increase as an action item on the board's meeting agenda. Individuals shall be permitted to provide comments during the fifteen-day period. The public notice of the proposed tuition and mandatory fee increase shall, at a minimum, include:

(1) An explanation for the proposed tuition and mandatory fee increase;

(2) A statement specifying the purposes for which revenue derived from the tuition and mandatory fee increase will be used; and

(3) A description of the efforts to mitigate the effect of the tuition and mandatory fee increase on students.

(b)(1) By January 1, 2019, each board shall develop a list of factors that shall be considered when developing recommendations to increase tuition and mandatory fees. The factors shall include, at a minimum, the level of state support; total cost of attendance; and efforts to mitigate the financial effect on students.

(2) Each state university and each campus in the University of Tennessee system shall post on its website a summary of the recommendations pursuant to subdivision (b)(1).

**49-7-1604.**

By February 1 of each year, each governing board shall provide a report to the office of legislative budget analysis, for distribution to the general assembly, with information regarding expenditures of revenues derived from any tuition and fees increase in the previous full academic year. The report shall include how revenues were used, the effect on student financial aid, and the effect on the average total cost of attendance per student.

**49-7-1605.**

Beginning August 1, 2019, each state university and each campus in the University of Tennessee system shall provide, with a student's letter of acceptance, a predictive cost estimate for students applying for undergraduate degree programs for the 2020-2021 academic year and for academic years thereafter.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: March 19, 2018

  
RANDY McNALLY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

  
BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April 2018

  
BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR